



## ***PROCLAMATION***

***BY***

***MAYOR MARTIN O'MALLEY***

***DESIGNATING JULY 26, 2005 AS***

***"AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT 15TH ANNIVERSARY DAY"***

***IN BALTIMORE***

***WHEREAS,*** the citizens of Baltimore and the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities are proud to join with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as they celebrate 15 years since being signed into law; and

***WHEREAS,*** on July 26, 1990 the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law, guaranteeing equal opportunity for people with disabilities in public accommodations, commercial facilities, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications; and

***WHEREAS,*** the ADA is slowly driving policy changes that have enabled more people with significant mental and physical disabilities to live independently in the community; 15 years ago people with disabilities had difficulty participating fully within society, today they have gained and/or retained employment, buildings and shopping centers are accessible, communication barriers have been resolved and so much more; and

***WHEREAS,*** the ADA has begun to change the landscape of our cities and towns, but a civil rights law alone does not create the kind of transformation of attitudes that Americans with disabilities, their families, and allies are fighting to achieve; this kind of change requires widespread discussion, education, and consciousness-raising; and

***WHEREAS,*** the people of Baltimore are proud to join together to commemorate this anniversary as we reflect upon the impact that the ADA has had on our country which is more accessible today and all Americans are better off.

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE,*** do hereby proclaim July 26, 2005, as "AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT 15TH ANNIVERSARY DAY" IN BALTIMORE, and do urge all citizens to join in this celebration.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF,*** I have hereunto set the Great Seal of the City of Baltimore to be affixed this twenty-sixth day of July, two thousand five.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin O'Malley".

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***Mayor***